

## Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

### NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Ponce de Leon post office in Ponce de Leon, Missouri. The petition for review received January 6, 2012, was filed by Marzee W. Grobe for Customers of Ponce de Leon, Missouri Post Office and is postmarked December 30, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review).



Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

Date: January 19, 2012

Attachment

Dec. 26, 2011

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
901 NEW YORK AVE NW STE 200  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

A2012-114  
RECEIVED

2012 JAN -6 P 4: 26

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Postal Service has informed us of a decision to close our post office by January 1, 2012 (docket # 1377998-65728). This action is being taken after meeting the provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 and over our protestations. However, the notice was posted December 16, 2011, and the proposed closure date does not allow for the thirty-day response required.

We, the customers of the Ponce de Leon, Missouri Post Office, vigorously protest this action in view of the provision in the Postal Reorganization Act that calls for the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where the post office is not self-sustaining.

The Postal Service's decision to close our post office and provide rural delivery service raises questions concerning the sanctity of the mail and the risks involved in noncareer employees handling the mail. We also foresee inconveniences in purchasing money orders and stamps and sending accountable mail. We have the same concerns regarding the receipt of accountable mail, such as certified letters, registered letters and CODs.

There is a contradiction in the final determination letter concerning the Ponce Post Office sales trend. In Section 1. Responsiveness to Community Postal Needs, third paragraph, third sentence, is written "Over the past several years, this office has experienced a steady decline in revenue and/or volume. However, in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, it states "Revenue has seen a slight increase over the last several years."

Another area of concern is the Postal Service's lack of cogent response to patrons concerns. There is a pattern of relentless insistence that technology will take the place of most of the functions of our post office. The Ponce Post Office does not serve a few city blocks or a tidy section of some small town. The area our Post Office serves is rough hill country, with some unpaved roads, deep hollers, low-water crossings, and extremely limited availability of technology. Some areas still have the original phone lines installed back in the 1950's, so that when it rains internet connection is disrupted. Also, not everyone wants or can afford a computer. The idea that because the technology is intrinsic to business elsewhere means that everyone lives a connected life is a false premise.

The services lost to our community include the only public bulletin board in our community. The response to this comment in all our letters and

petition has been that we will have to use one at a local grocery store, gas station or other business in town. We have all tried to make it clear that the Ponce Post Office is the last public building in town, last public business in town, last meeting place, last vestige of public life in our town. Churches are not left open and unlocked other than for services due to the risk of arson or meth incursion. The bulletin board serves as our public information center, as our Post Mistress serves as the private information hub. She is the person who knows who is ill, who is better, who has troubles, and especially who is to be told, and who is not. Gossip- no. The position of Post Mistress is one of discretion, and she would have little information if she were not trusted to handle it carefully. This communication is a vital thread that keeps our community alive and working together, and will be lost if we lose our Post Office.

Our Post Office cannot be costing the Postal Service a great deal, as it is as frugal as can be. The building is concrete block, with a little one bar heater for the winter, and an open back and front door to cool it in the summer. The hours are limited: just four hours a day, six days a week. The Post Mistress supplies her own office supplies, and even the flag was donated by a neighbor. We are not asking for something fancy and new; we just want to keep what we already have.

The closing of Ponce Post Office would be a hardship for many of the customers due to the increased distance they would have to travel to access services. At the furthest end of the area served the trip to Spokane Post Office would be a round trip of 10 miles. The increased distance and cost will have a prohibitive effect on those who frequently access the post office, especially those who have use the post office for home business transactions, and those who have a post office box. Increased travel costs directly impact the small business bottom line.

We feel that, as citizens of the United States, we are entitled to the same efficient post service provided to our counterparts in urban areas. The Postal Reorganization Act is explicit in pointing this out. We petition you, as member of the Postal Regulatory Commission, to respectfully consider our protest and order the Postal Service to give additional consideration to our service needs.

Respectfully,

*Margie W. Globe*

MR. MARK MARTINEZ  
MID-AMERICA DISTRICT MANAGER  
CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SALES  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
300 W PERSHING ROAD SUITE 210  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-9000

We, the citizens and customers of the **Ponce De Leon, MO 65728** Post Office hereby protest any change in the present status of our post office.

It is our desire to retain our post office at its present status -- a United States post office operated by a postmaster and career postal employees.

We have many concerns, among them the sanctity of the mail and the inconvenience your proposal presents to us in delivery and sending the mail, particularly accountable mail. We are especially concerned over the purchase of postal money orders. We are also well aware of the documented abuses possible through a contract mail station.

The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 calls for providing a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not financially self-sustaining.

We do not feel your proposals meet these criteria.

Sincerely,

Customers of the **Ponce De Leon** Post Office:

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65728**

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
Brandee Arnold	Brandee Arnold		Sept. 6 2011
Rebecca Facas	REBECCA FACAS		11 9.6.11
Angie Bond	Angie Bond		9-6-11
Tabetha Ragsdale	Tabetha Ragsdale		9-6-11
Mary Walker	Mary Walker		9-6-11
James Walker	James Walker		9-6-11
Eddie Walker	Eddie Walker		9-6-11
Kevin Ziegler	KEVIN ZIEGLER		9-6-11
Fonda Maples	Fonda Maples		9-6-11

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65728**

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
<i>La Donna Marshall</i>	La Donna Marshall		9-7-2011
<i>Marsha Marshall</i>	Marsha Marshall		9-6-11
<i>Kim Dowdle</i>	Kim Dowdle		9-6-11
<i>Chris Dowdle</i>	Chris Dowdle		9-6-11
<i>Kim Dowdle</i>	Kim Dowdle		9-6-11
<i>Shirley</i>	Shirley		
<i>Shirley</i>	Shirley		9-6-11
<i>Deanne Bruffett</i>	Deanne Bruffett		9/6/11
<i>Deanne Bruffett</i>	Deanne Bruffett		9/6/11
<i>Colby Gentry</i>	Colby Gentry		9/6/11

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65728**

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
<i>Garth Zeigler</i>	Garth Zeigler		9/6/11
<i>[Faint Signature]</i>	<i>[Faint Name]</i>		9/6/11
<i>Amy Harnois</i>	Amy Harnois		9/6/11
<i>[Faint Signature]</i>	<i>[Faint Name]</i>		
<i>Dennis K. Price</i>	Dennis K. Price		9/7/11
<i>Ashley Fizer</i>	Ashley Fizer		9/8/11
<i>Lynda Jenkins</i>	Lynda Jenkins		9/15/11

9/6/11  
9/6/11  
9/6/11

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65725**

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
Betty Sue Little	Betty SUE Little		8-30-11
Hubert J. Little	Hubert J. Little		8-30-11
Blair Capin	Robin Cowgill		9-10-11
Joyce M. Dickson	Joyce M. Dickson		9-10-11
Michael E. Dickson	Michael E. Dickson		9-10-11
Deborah Essick	Deborah Essick		9-10-11
Bill Essick	Bill Essick		9-10-11
Robin Tower	Robin Tower		9-12-11
Michele Smith	Michele Smith		9-12-11



**Ponce De Leon, MO 65728**

[illegible]

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65728**

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
<i>Ann Schmitt</i>	Ann Schmitt		9-7-11
<i>Leanna Chase</i>	Leanna Chase		9-7-11
<i>Cliff Jones</i>	JONES		9-8-11
<i>Walter G Hall</i>	Walter G Hall		9-9-11
<i>Harlene Hall</i>	Harlene Hall		9-9-11
<i>William B Hall</i>	William B Hall		9-9-11
<i>Nancy C Hall</i>	Nancy C. Hall		9-9-11
<i>Dewayne Saine</i>	Dewayne Saine		9/25/11
<i>Keisha Greene</i>	Keisha Greene		9/27/11

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65725**

[illegible]

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65725**

[illegible]

# Ponce De Leon, MO 65725

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
Joyce M. Dickson	Joyce M. Dickson		8-30-11
Michael E. Dickson	MICHAEL E DICKSON		8-30-11
Jane Whiting	Jane Whiting		8-30-11
Lindsay Mattison	LINDSAY MATTISON		8-30-11
Tommy Little	TOMMY LITTLE		8-30-11

Ponce De Leon, MO 65728

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
Helen L. Little	Helen L. Little		8-30-11
Alison Jones	Alison Jones		8-31-11
Danielle Rice	Danielle Rice		8/31/11
B. Set	B. Set		8/31/11
Sheena R. Carr	Sheena R. Carr		8/31/11
Kelly Baker	Kelly Baker		8/31/11
Ammon Baker	Ammon Baker		8/31/11
Kristen Tuman	Kristen Tuman		8/31/11
MANUEL HAMMERS	MANUEL HAMMERS		8-31-11

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65728**

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
Tom Sartin	Tom Sartin		8/2/11
Kathy Riott	Kathy Riott		9-2-11
Rick Riott	Rick Riott		9-2-11
Judy Hall	Judy Hall		9-2-11
Janice Farley	JANICE FARLEY		9-2-11
Mike W Cooper	MIKE W COOPER		9-2-11
Janice Hammers	Janice Hammers		9/3/11
Tom Butler	Tom Butler		9-3-11
Gail Walker	Gail Walker		9-4-11

**Ponce De Leon, MO 65728**

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
Brian T. Fletcher	Linda Fletcher Brown Elder		9/4
Linda M. Fletcher	Linda M. Fletcher		9/4
Shelby Jones	Shelby Jones		9/4
Brad Gilson	Bradley K. Gilson		9/4
Tina Cooper	Tina Cooper		9/4
Amanda Holt	Amanda Holt		9/4
Leslie Taylor	Leslie Taylor		9/4
Braden Powell	Braden Powell		9/4
Lindsay Powell	Lindsay Powell		9/4



**Ponce De Leon, MO 65728**

Signature	Print Name	Address	Date Signed
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>		9-5-11
<i>Donald Taylor</i>	Don Taylor		9-5-11
<i>Cathy Boyd</i>	Cathy Boyd		9-5-11
<i>Terry Russell</i>	Terry Russell		9-5-11
<i>Jack McRae</i>	JACK McRae		9-6-11
<i>Regina Fox</i>	Regina Fox		9-6-11
<i>James R. Fox Jr.</i>	JIM FOX		9-6-11
<i>Sherry Allen</i>	Sherry Allen		9-6-11
<i>Leon Allen</i>	Leon Allen		9-6-11